Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

The invention relates to a A ball bearing (1) having has an inner race (2) and an outer race (3). In order to prevent the rotating parts from being damaged when the bearing assembly fails, the invention provides that the bearing has emergency bearing surfaces (14, 15) which are concentric to the rotational axis (6) and of which one is a part of the rotating bearing race and the other is a part of the fixed bearing race. The invention also provides that during During normal operation, the emergency bearing surfaces (14, 15) are situated opposite one another with a relatively narrow gap (24) therebetween and that But, in the event of failure, the surfaces (14, 15) engage and function as emergency bearing surfaces. (drawing figure 5)